

HOUSE BILL 8003

By Grills

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 29, Part 2; Title 10, Chapter 7, Part 5; Title 14; Title 50; Title 64; Title 67, Chapter 5, Part 5 and Title 68, relative to benefitting a new authority anticipated to be created through the governor's call to convene the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Session of the One Hundred and Twelfth General Assembly on October 18, 2021.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

WHEREAS, a new authority is anticipated to be created through general legislation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Session of the One Hundred Twelfth General Assembly by call of the Governor, and this new authority is anticipated to bring thousands of jobs to our great State. It is incumbent upon the General Assembly to ensure that any entity within the authority or any person or entity conducting business with an entity within the authority benefits from a uniform system of restrictions or benefits regarding COVID-19, and that nothing in the creation of a new authority would exempt any person or employee from the enjoyment of a uniform system of restrictions or benefits regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a uniform system of restrictions or benefits regarding COVID-19 is beneficial to effectuate the creation and operation of a new authority; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-7-303(a)(1), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(C) The disqualification provided in subdivision (a)(1)(A) does not apply to a claimant who left employment because the claimant's employer required its employees to receive an immunization or vaccination for COVID-19, as defined by § 14-1-101, and the claimant refused to receive the immunization or vaccination.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-7-303(c), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(4) Benefits shall not be reduced or denied under this chapter to an otherwise eligible claimant for separation from employment due to the claimant refusing to receive an immunization or vaccination for COVID-19, as defined by § 14-1-101.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.